

:: Summary

The mission of the Church couldn’t be clearer: to proclaim the good news to all people, to be witnesses for Jesus Christ, and people who advance the Kingdom of God on earth. The mission hasn’t changed but lots of other things have. The story of the Church is the story of adaptation and innovation in a changing world so that the unchanging truth of God’s grace in Christ might be heard and received by all.

:: Share

How has the way you do your banking or communicate with your friends changed over the last 10 years?

:: Explore and Discuss | Read Luke 4:18-20, Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:38-39, and Acts 4:12.

*The mission of sharing the Good News of Jesus with everyone hasn’t changed, but the world has* (see Acts 12:1-19 as an example of the increasing persecution of the Church). In terms of what eternally matters to God, how would you describe how our world has changed over the last several years?

*The mission hasn’t changed, but the Church has* (for example, see Acts 10-11, 15 on the inclusion of gentiles into the family of faith). Change is hard. Significant transformation in a church seeking to fulfill its mission causes different responses. Some people actively or passively resist. Others consider (or do) leave the fellowship. Still others go all in supporting whatever is needed to further the Great Commission. Which response best represents where you are right now? How is that affecting what you are praying?

*The mission hasn’t changed, but the methods have* (see the apostle Paul’s methods in Acts 17). Placing a “Yellow Pages” ad about our church is a method. So is having a website or altering worship styles. Creating an online digital community to reach more people is also a method. Why is it important to be willing to change methods to reach people? How ok are you with doing so?



:: Apply it to Your Life

If GraceWay is to embrace the future the Lord Jesus has for it, and do the transformational work required, it is important for our entire community – all of us – to go “all in.” How is God prompting you in this?

One church shares two of its values this way:

*We give up things we love for things we love even more.*

It’s an honor to sacrifice for Christ and His church.

*We will do anything short of sin to reach people who don’t know Christ.*

To reach people no one is reaching, we’ll have to do things no one is doing.

What is your reaction to these values?

What are you praying for GraceWay? For yourself?

:: Pray

Jesus, we continue inviting you to have your way with us. Through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, make us zealous for you and the Great Commission. Help all of us to be all in, earnestly desiring and passionately wanting, what you want. Give us hearts that desire to do anything and everything you call us to do to reach people and share your love. Train us up Lord Jesus, that we might mirror the commitment and fervor of the early Church, sharing the Good News with this broken world. Amen.

